

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc
HINGES & TONGS

MEETINGS ARE HELD 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS SEPT.-JUNE AT ST. PAULS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRADING & TALKING 7PM FORMAL PROGRAM 8PM

MAY - JUNE

editor
Joseph K. Doles

1994

**This issue of H&T has been sent to everyone requesting
more information about the RPA at ROPEX-94**

1994 RPA MEETING SCHEDULE

Silent Auctions at all meetings.

- MAY 12 Live Auction - more of Warren Stevens' estate
(no silent auction this meeting)
- MAY 26 "Slips on Ships on Stamps" APS slide presentation
(one page exhibit, "Summer Activities")
- JUNE 4 Stamp Collector's Banquet, Rick's Prime Rib House (5 PM)
- JUNE 9 Annual RPA Business Meeting and election of officers
- JUNE 23 Kiloware and Strawberries Night

On May 12, the RPA will feature another live auction of general worldwide material from the estate of Warren Stevens. These auctions are always popular and be prepared to leave with lots of good philatelic material at bargain prices. A portion of the proceeds is donated to the RPA as well.

All stamp collectors are welcome to attend the Stamp Collector's Banquet, a joint dinner sponsored by the Rochester Philatelic Association and the Kodak Stamp Club. It will be held on Saturday, June 4 at Rick's Prime Rib House, 788 Howard Road, Gates. The buffet menu features pre dinner cheese and crackers, prime rib, baked chicken, macaroni and sauce, roasted potatoes, chef salad, assorted vegetables and relishes, ice cream and beverage. The total cost is \$13. Auction lot viewing and cocktails from 5-6 PM and dinner starting at 6 PM. Craig Braack, Allegany County Historian, is the guest speaker, presenting his slide program on "Statues of Freedom - The Statue of Liberty and the Capitol Dome's Statue of Freedom". Events will be wrapped up by a live auction of material submitted by the attendees. Reservations must be received by May 21. Make checks payable to Tom Fortunato and send your payment to: Banquet, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14615-2022. Include your phone number in your letter. You are allowed to bring up to 5 lots of philatelic items to be auctioned after dinner. Questions may be phoned to Tom at (716) 621-1670.

Who Is the Fairest (Most Popular) of Them All?

Voting for the most popular exhibit at ROPEX (or almost any stampshow) is done by ballot of those attending. Here, the Larry Moriarity Award - an engraved plaque - is given at the end of the show to the person whose exhibit has received the most votes.

This year, "U.S. Souvenir Pages" by Grace Marchese of New Jersey was acclaimed Most Popular. It was fortunate that Grace was on hand to hear the award announced, and to receive it from Larry himself. (Actually, Larry then took it back to have it engraved with her name, when it will be sent to her).

"Woody Guthrie, His Life and His Songs," by Stephen Suffet came in second; "The Magical World of Disney," by Tori Wood, a junior exhibitor, was third. Other vote getters among the exhibits included: Other vote getters among the exhibit included: "St George and the Dragon." G. B. Loan; "Edward - All for Love," Geo. Guzio; "U.S. Stampless Cover Markings," W. Biddle.

Two RPA members' exhibits received votes: "Figure Skating," Alice Johnson and "Transportation Coils relating to Railroads on FDC Cachets," Ray Stone.

The "chuckle" exhibit, "Sell it With Stamps!" by some of our RPA members brought a couple of votes, as did the last-minute fun exhibit "The Chicken."

But the best entry of all read like this:
My Favorite Exhibit Person is Larry Moriarity

[Editor's note: Should we examine Larry's handwriting, compared to this entry?]



ROPEX EXHIBIT WINNERS

While a very small percentage of stamp collectors ever exhibit their material, ROPEX is usually fortunate to have its exhibit space filled quickly. This year there were 46 competitive exhibits and two non-competitive. Of those, seven were from juniors.

Winner of the Grand Award, who will exhibit at Stampshow in August, was W. Danforth Walker with "Grenada, 1752-1911." Reserve Grand was awarded to Gerhard G. Korn for his "German Booklets."

The medals awarded by the judges' decisions were: Golds, 10; Vermeils, 7; Silvers, 12; Silver-Bronze, 15; and Bronze, one. There was one certificate of participation given.

A great number of special awards were

presented from 14 different societies and organizations. Let's hear applause for Tom Fortunato, RPA vice-president and first time exhibitor, for winning the Virginia Gubler Award given for the best thematic exhibit by an RPA member; Tom also garnered the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Excellence for his "Diversity of Ceramics." Member Bert Kiener also deserves applause - he was given the George LeFebvre Award for the best general exhibit by an RPA member.

Robert Boettcher, a 15-year-old collector from Canada, walked away with **four** awards for his exhibit of "Cancels of Germany." (We expect we will see him again!)

[The complete list of awards and recipients was printed and is available. If you missed it at ROPEX, ask at the next meeting if you'd like a copy.]



ROPEX - 94 GRAND AWARD

Each year the ROPEX committee purchases two gifts which are given to the Grand and Reserve Grand winners at the show.

This year, a large framed poster called "The Rochester Collection" was presented to Dan Walker, Grand Award winner. The poster, a collage of Rochester memorabilia, was created a Rochester photographer, and was a clever montage of 40 or more items with some connection to the Rochester area.

For example: a thermometer by George Taylor (Taylor Instruments), an old camera representing Kodak, early spice and mustard containers from French's; a record book and ticket punch from the Lehigh Railroad station; a teddy bear from the Margaret Strong Museum -- and many more items were photographed into a creative art piece.

However, one particular item caught our eyes: a 28-cent U.S. air mail stamp showing Blanche Stuart Scott (issued 1980) which peeked out from under her leather aviator's helmet. Blanche Stewart

The description of the poster (written on the back of the frame) notes Blanche as being from Rochester (although we have not yet found any document to substantiate that). However, it is a fact that she was a friend of Glenn Curtiss. Curtiss, a Hammondsport N.Y. engine builder and motorcycle racer, became one of America's leading aviation pioneers, in competition with the Wright Brothers.

Blanche Stewart, apparently a spunky lady, had already crossed the U.S. driving a car "to prove that long-distance driving was so easy even

ROPEX GRAND AWARD (cont)

a woman could do it" before she went up for her first flight in 1910 with Charles Willard.

Hoping to prove that women could also be as daring as men in the air, she applied to join Glenn Curtiss' group. Curtiss disapproved of women trying to fly, but finally took her on as a pupil. However, he put a throttle block on the aircraft to prevent it from going airborne!

Nevertheless, on Sept. 20, 1910 Blanche succeeded in taking off despite the block and firm instructions not to do so. She lifted 40 feet and flew about the length of a football field, this in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Thus, she became the first American woman to fly solo.

Curtiss grudgingly took her on his exhibition team, and she flew for several years doing stunts and exhibitions, including a "Death Dive" and flying under bridges. In 1916, at age 27, Blanche retired, explaining that the public watched her more as a freak, rather than as a skilled pilot. (A fact: in the early days of aviation, flying was regarded as a novelty, a spectator sport mostly, participated in by only the most daring).

[Scott and Curtiss were both honored on U.S. air mail stamps, 28 and 35 cent denominations, issued at Hammondsport, New York, 12-30-80]



HAPPY VALENTINE'S, er-r EASTER?!

A Valentine's Day postcard from a family in Irondequoit to their parents/grandparents in Brighton was posted Friday evening, Feb. 11. (Unwittingly, the sender wrote **her** ZIP code - 14617 - instead of the correct one, 14618, on the address)

Being the weekend, the card travelled to Buffalo, where it received a Feb. 12 postmark. Then it must have been tossed into a wrong bag, because it arrived at Hilton, N.Y. and was postmarked there on Feb. 14.

Hilton looked closer and shipped it back to the Rochester GMF, who - following the zip code on the address - sent it to Irondequoit. There, the little card was decorated further with a red round-dater of the Irondequoit Br. on Feb. 19, 1994. And apparently tossed -- somewhere.

Finally, someone crossed out the incorrect ZIP, and sent it somewhere to receive another set of markings, quite illegible.

On March 28, long after Valentine's Day, and just in time for Easter, the card arrived at its intended destination - six weeks to go five miles!

MEMBERSHIP

Once again, a reminder that membership dues are payable for the coming membership year by the end of June, 1994.

Also, a reminder that RPA might pat itself on the back for what has probably been a record year for membership - 25 new members joined during the 1993-94 year, seven of them during ROPEX-93!

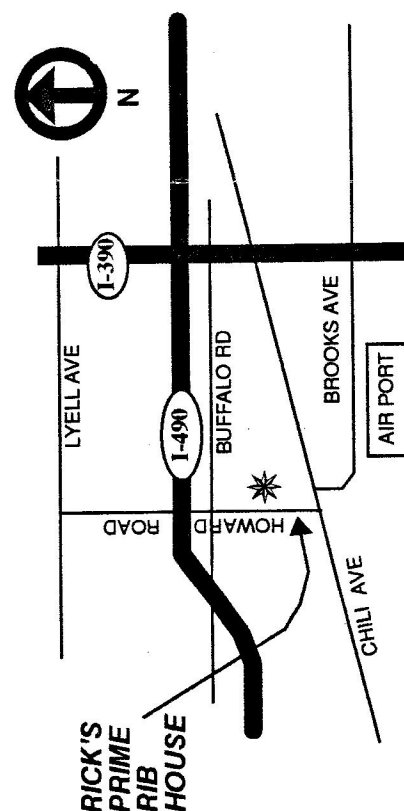
During the same time, we lost four members (a net gain of 21), three to non-renewals, and one to death; Motya Shteyn died the end of February.

Several members will have their 1994-95 dues paid because they convinced two or more people to join us.

During ROPEX-94, five joined our group, including two faithful ROPEX followers, Karen and Duncan Barber from Canada. Other new names so far are: [in order of joining the association] Joshua Hollander, Gary Wycker, Alfred Greco, Stephanie Masline, David McDonough, John Flannery, John Lobene, Harry Savage, Margaret Lewis, Paul Spiers, Stephen Hine, Howard Bradybaugh, Richard G. Kase, Ronald Amberger, Robert Kingston, William Klein, James Sands, Florian Rak, Gene Amburgey, Kathy and Philip Minarik, John Hynd, John Picarella, Ilya Gurevich, Terisa Walker, Azadeh Shahryarinejad, Tim Dalton, and R.S. Frank.

Don't forget - at each RPA meeting, look around. If you see some unfamiliar faces, introduce yourself and get acquainted. It couldn't hurt!

THIS WAY TO THE BANQUET



DO IT FOR FUN

In this month's **American Philatelist**, *Advice to the Stampcorn* page 412, invited 15 well-known philatelists to share with their fellow APS members the best philatelic advice they have gotten and the best advice that they give. Our own club member and ROPEX Judges Chairman, Ann Trigg gave this response:

Judge and exhibitor Ann Trigg - Quite a few years ago I began to attend our local stamp club. I was drawn there by the varied and interesting programs that were put on each and every Friday night. At that time, it had several elderly members who were intrigued that a woman should wish to be involved in postal history. It was felt that a "nice topical" would be more appropriate. However, one gentleman in particular was most supportive, and I looked forward each Friday to discussing philately with him. He was not an internationally known philatelist but someone who loved the hobby and worked very hard on his collections. He was well known in the area for the scholarship he put into his exhibits and lectures. Unfortunately, Walter Grotke is no longer with us, but I well remember some of his pieces of wisdom, especially the admonition, "Research your subject as thoroughly as humanly possible and then only in the last resort use informed guesses."

Once I began to exhibit postal history, this piece of advice became my watchword. It was and is tempting at times to cut a few corners here and there in order to finish a section, but I always can imagine Walter looking over my shoulder and I go the extra distance.

The best philatelic advice I gave can be summarized in four little words - do it for fun. Sometimes it is forgotten that for the most of us philately is a hobby to be enjoyed as a relaxation from the stresses from our "other lives." It can become a religion, demanding ever-increasing infusions of our time and resources. We feel obliged to submit to the rule of this self-made machine as though driven to do so.

Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in the field of competitive exhibiting. In the pursuit of the medal, the "fun" is often left behind to be replaced by "need." This does not have to be - philatelists should take control of their own hobby and tailor it to fit them.

To that end it is important that beginners, youth exhibitors, and the elderly on fixed incomes and low philatelic budgets do it for fun. But we all should be reminded of this at times - it is why we entered the hobby in the first place.

In the article Ann, of Clarence, NY, is referring to the Buffalo Stamp Club. ed.

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